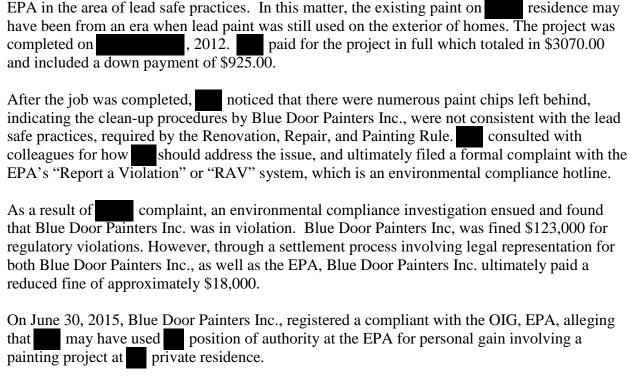


## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

1301 CONSITITUTION AVENUE, NW WASHINGTON DC 20004

<b>DATE:</b> MARCH 16, 2016	PREPARED BY:	SA
CASE #: OI-HQ-2015-ADM	I-0093 CROSS REFERE	NCE #: HOTLINE 2015-0288
TITLE: , OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION, EPA  CASE SUMMARY REPORT		
Subject(s)	Location	Other Data
	WASHINGTON DC	
On June 30, 2015, Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Hotline received an electronic message from of Blue Door Painters, Inc. The message reported potential misconduct by EPA, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Washington, DC, EPA East, Room (202).  As referenced in the Hotline complaint, pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.  The message reported potential misconduct by EPA position and authority to pursue a personal matter for repairs on home.		
residence. The project consiste the painted surfaces of the hom of the residence The work wa regarding lead safe practices. T	Door Painters Inc., began a repaint d of stripping the existing paint when and applying new paint to the presence to be completed in a manner contribution of the presence of the paint in homes built before 1978.	hich was chipping on most of reviously paint chipped surfaces sistent with the EPA's rule ovation, repair, and painting



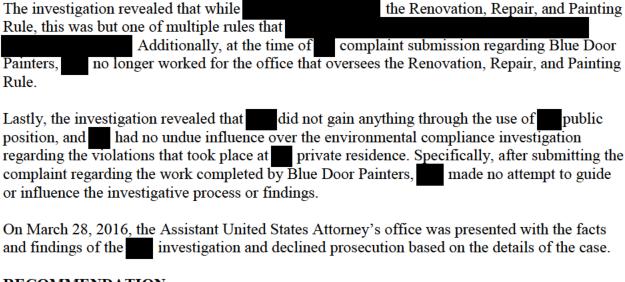
## **INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS:**

The EPA, OIG's investigative findings were such that:

There were numerous paint chips left behind by Blue Door Painter Inc. at private residence after the completion of the repainting job, in violation of the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule. EPA policy and procedure was adhered to during the ensuing environmental compliance investigation. During the subsequent OIG investigation, agents questioned the practice of pulling documents related to other projects as well as pulling documents regarding the job at residence. Agents found this practice to be consistent with environmental compliance investigative procedure.

Additionally, agents investigated the alleged excessive fine that was initially levied against Blue Door Painters Inc of \$123,000. The investigation determined the fine against Blue Door Painters Inc. was consistent with fines levied against other companies found to be in similar violations of the Renovation, Repair, and Painting Rule. The investigation was provided with a press release that detailed numerous companies in similar violation as Blue Door Painters Inc., with similar fines. Specifically, seven companies each paid total fines, in excess of \$25,000, six companies, including Blue Door Painters Inc., paid total fines in the \$18,000 - \$22,000 range, with another six companies paying total fines in the \$10,000 - \$17,000 range. The investigation revealed the fines levied against companies found to be in violation of an environmental regulation are drawn from a standardized table of penalties, known as the "Penalty Table Regarding Nationally Significant Issues."

Additionally, the investigation revealed that during the year Blue Door Painters Inc. was found to be in violation, they as a company grossed a total business income that was too large to be qualified for the "Micro-business Policy" which allows for reduced fines for a small business that grosses less than \$300,000 per year.



## RECOMMENDATION:

The investigation revealed that the allegations against are not supported, and no further investigatory actions are warranted. However, if additional information is discovered, or if provided by an outside source, OI will assess such information and take appropriate action.

This case is recommended for closure with no further action.